



CDAC SCOOP

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Commissioner's Diversity Advisory Council Newsletter

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In today's highly competitive job market, the reality is that it's not all about the GPA or the school attended but what an individual can bring to an organization. In addition to hundreds of pages of reading, hours of theoretical discussions and lectures over the course of the semester, working as an unpaid intern for the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) could perhaps be the best education of a student's life. The DOC has taken on an irreplaceable role of providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and experiences that are unlike any that the

students could get in the classroom.

Since the Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity took over management of the Internship program in the summer of 2014, we have worked hard to expand and enhance the experience for students. Due to many people not being aware that the Department offers this opportunity, our first step was to promote this program exponentially during our outreach efforts at local institutions of higher learning. Utilizing the mass.gov/doc web page under the Internship link, applicants have direct access to program information, application materials and the ability to view the over 20 Internship tracks we offer. We also streamlined the program for applicants and institutional contacts by making communication and process more efficient.

The Internship program has three semesters with applicable deadlines for each: Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Summer semester is our most popular period making it highly competitive for students who apply. Considering the shift in direction many colleges & universities are taking in their teachings, some of our more popular internship tracks are located within the areas of classification, reentry and programming. The most popular Internship tracks involve working with the female offenders.

As with all successful program management, we look to ensure all students are having the best experience possible. We do this by evaluating student feedback. Noted below, is one student providing positive feedback on her experience as an Intern. She has since applied for various positions in the DOC and is scheduled to take the next CO I Civil Service exam!

A student who interned with Central Classification wrote:

"Interning with the Department of Correction has been nothing but a journey I will never forget. I cannot thank all the people I have met with, given me tours, or answered questions I have asked enough. Having all the field trips set up and the variety of work I did definitely taught me the department is more than just Correctional Officers."

Many of our colleagues in every level of the DOC started their career exploration by interning with the DOC. They have since moved on to have interesting and noteworthy careers. We look forward to continuing to provide this one of a kind experience to students in hopes they one day gain employment in the DOC.

You may learn more about the Massachusetts Department of Correction Internship Program on mass.gov/doc under the Internship Program link or by contacting Lori Costa or Carol Thomas in the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at 508-850-7730.

Director of ODEO
Monsi Quiñones

Team Civil Service

Ricardo Bennett
Susan Britton
James Callahan
Lori Costa
Gary Fyfe
Mark Williams

Team Outreach

Tina Anthony
Jessica DeJesus
Kurt DeMoura
Janice Perez
Janice Posey
Todd Quarterman
Christopher Weagle

Team Strategy

Jeffrey Cammuso
Jason Dobson
Ana Fritze
Sharlene Paul
Jose Rodriguez
Colby Santos
Jovonte Santos

Editor

Monsi Quiñones
Ana Fritze

Designer

Ana Fritze



Blizzard of 2015 Dumps Over Two Feet of Snow in Boston

January 27, 2015 marked the first big blizzard of 2015 for New England, affecting the Boston Area with a total of 24.6 inches of snow. This storm left many communities at a standstill (this stands at number 6 for blizzards in Boston).

The blizzard unleashed heavy snow amid winds past 35 mph. Visibility was reduced to zero at times. Areas in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut recorded snow totals reaching up to 30 inches.

Here are some interesting facts about the blizzards in Massachusetts History:

February 24-27, 1969 = 26.3 inches

This killer storm was blamed for 94 deaths as forecasters greatly underestimated its duration. In Boston, it snowed for a record of 101 consecutive hours. New York City fared even worse, and that city's poor snow-removal response nearly wrecked the political career of then Mayor, John Lindsay.

February 6-7, 1978 = 27.1 inches

The infamous Blizzard of '78 was exceptional for its severity and bad timing. To make matters worse, there had been another blizzard 17 days earlier that dumped close to 2 feet of snow on metro Boston. Most of that was still on the ground when the February 6-7 storm hit.



February 17-18, 2013 = 27.5 inches

This Presidents' Day Weekend storm set the record for the greatest snowfall in a 24-hour period, but its impact on metro Boston was nowhere near as bad as the Blizzard of '78. The snow was dry, it occurred on a weekend, forecasters gave plenty of warning, and most roads were cleared by the next day.

February 8-9, 2013 = 24.9 inches

The Blizzard of 2013 hit New England with hurricane winds, destructive tides, and more than 30 inches in some places. Governor Deval Patrick took the unusual step of banning traffic from Massachusetts roads early in the storm to aid cleanup.

January 26-27, 2015 = 24.6 inches

The storm paralyzed Boston and the region for a day, closing roads and transit. Because it was a light snow, there were fewer power outages than expected. High tides damaged some South Shore communities, but did not cause widespread devastation.





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By Ana Fritze

DHR—TOYS FOR TOTS 2014



We are all aware that giving is a good, kind and necessary need. For the 2014 Toys for Tots, the Division of Human Resources staff worked hard in putting together over 100 gifts for the 2014 Toys for Tots. With this accomplishment, we made the drive not only successful but the holidays happier for so many children.

We'd like to extend our special thanks to Diane Pearl, who starts shopping for the Toys for Tots on January 2nd of each year.

Giving has no conditions or boundaries, it is a continuous flow without any limits and we are very blessed and thankful to be able to make a difference in children's lives.



By Jeffrey Cammuso

Commissioner Carol Higgins O'Brien aces St. Patrick's Day quiz

Commissioner O'Brien had the pleasure of visiting Ireland on two occasions. Both were experiences that she will always treasure in her heart. *"There is an appreciation of life in the countryside of Ireland, where you enjoy the company of family, friends and the wonderful heritage. Every day is St. Patrick's Day, beautiful people celebrating with feast and so thankful for what life has to offer"* said Commissioner O'Brien. The Commissioner also enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day Quiz and she **ACED IT!!!!**

Now it's time for you to test your St. Patrick's Day knowledge...

1. In Ireland, what does the color green stand for?

- A—Spring
- B—Countryside
- C—Hope

2. What colors are on the Irish Flag?

- A—Green, white and orange
- B—Blue, red and white
- C—Green, red and white

3. Where was St. Patrick born?

- A—Ireland
- B—Britain
- C—Africa

4. What did St. Patrick do?

- A—He was a great explorer
- B—He was a missionary
- C—He was a war hero

5. What is St. Patrick best known for?

- A—Driving the snakes out of Ireland
- B—Leading the country to war
- C—Discovering Ireland

6. What is March 17?

- A—St. Patrick's birthday
- B—The day St. Patrick died
- C—None of the above

7. What do Irish people say about Saint Patrick?

- A—He watches over them
- B—He decides if they will get into heaven one day
- C—All of the above

8. What symbol stands for St. Patrick's day?

- A—Shamrock
- B—Egg
- C—Snake

9. What is SHILLELAGH?

- A—Leprechaun's outfit
- B—Wooden pipe
- C—Short, stout, oak club

10. According to the legend, what should you never do if you catch a leprechaun?

- A—Kiss him
- B—Take your eyes off him
- C—Tell your friends



1C 2A 3B 4B 5A 6B 7C 8A 9C 10B



4

SPRING BREAK time!

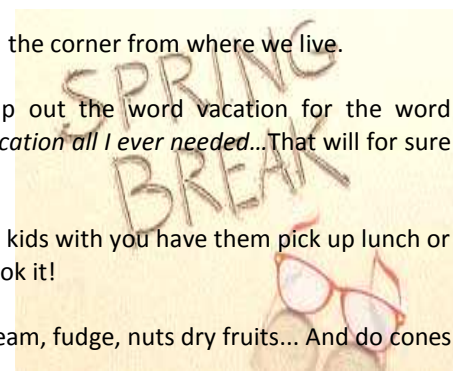
By Ana Fritze



Many times it's not possible to take the kids on vacation for spring break. Either because the wallet just won't allow it or timing is not the best; however, don't get the *I-can't-go-on-vacay* blues get to you! You can still have fun. Consider a **staycation**... that's right, a *staycation*!

Many of us don't realize but, the best ideas are just around the corner from where we live.

Do you know the Go-Go's song, "Vacation?" Well, swap out the word vacation for the word *staycation*, and sing it ... '*Staycation all I ever wanted, Staycation all I ever needed...*' That will for sure get you in the mood for some spring fun!



Farmers markets are a lot of fun. Take a field trip to a local farmer's market and if you have kids with you have them pick up lunch or dinner. Kids usually like picking colored fruits and vegetables and when home they can help cook it!

Have a **Sundae** day! Get creative with ice-cream by stocking up on various flavors, whipped cream, fudge, nuts dry fruits... And do cones or just create fun dishes with the ice-cream. Dive in and enjoy your creation!

Depending on where you live, you can also plan a swim day, either lie poolside or take a ride to the beach where you can just sit back, soak up the sun and relax! If you are located where weather is a bit on the chill side, plan a trip to the park. Check out the city's website for a list of activities happening. Pack a picnic meal, blanket and chairs and make a day or night of it. It is a lot of fun.

So there you go. Now you don't have to travel far to have a good time. It can happen right outside your door!



Worcester State University (WSU) Criminal Justice students participate in the Job Shadow Program at MCI-Shirley on March 3, 2015.

Leadership tips!

Effective leaders play a bigger game by pushing their comfort zones. This stressful cycle involves facing a zone of uncertainty, which one mastered, becomes comfortable. For each change, set three targets with the SAS—Survival Goal, Acceptable One and a Superb target.

Remember, if you never fail, you're not pushing your comfort zone enough!



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@MACorrections

Contact Info

Office of Diversity & Equal
Opportunity

1 Industries Drive
Norfolk, MA 02056



508-850-7730

Fax: 508-850-7785



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Facebook

MadocCdac

Tell us your story. We are always looking for contributors!

You can groupwise Monsi Quinones or Ana Fritze.